

CITY OF WINCHESTER

STORMWATER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

AS OF NOVEMBER 2007

The City of Winchester was designated by the State of Virginia as an “urbanized area” and required to obtain a VPDES (Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Phase II stormwater permit. The City has a separate storm sewer system that conveys only stormwater and is made up of streets with drainage systems, including curbs, gutters, catch basins, ditches, man-made channels, and storm sewers. The stormwater drains directly to receiving surface waters such as our streams and groundwater. With increases in impervious surfaces due to development and redevelopment, the quantity of stormwater typically increases and carries with it many pollutants.

As of March 2003, the City of Winchester is covered by a VPDES Permit for municipalities with separate storm sewer systems. This permit requires the development and implementation of a stormwater management program consisting of the following six key elements:

- Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
- Post-construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

COMPLETED AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Presented stormwater outreach material for citizens at event booths (Wellness Festivals, Earth Day Activities, Flower Home and Garden Show)
- Completed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Project at Fay Spring and Rain Garden Construction at Winchester Parks and Recreation Site
- Organized Water Quality Workshop in April of 2005
- Developed Water Protection Ordinance
(go to <http://www.winchesterva.gov/engineering/stormwater.php> for more detail)
- Marked approximately 100 storm drains with “No Dumping – Drains to Waterways” throughout the City to prevent illicit discharges
- Developed storm water system mapping
- Maintained hazardous spill response system
- Continued household hazardous waste collection program
- Prepared land disturbance permit application packages
- Maintained Virginia erosion and sediment review, inspection and administration for a minimum of two employees
- Developed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) for City Yards facility
- Constructed Salt and Vehicle Reclamation building to prevent stormwater pollution
- Continued City street sweeping program to remove litter and prevent stream pollution
- Developing Environmental Management System (EMS) for Water Treatment Plant



City of Winchester
Public Services Department
Rouss City Hall
15 North Cameron St.
Winchester, VA 22601



RECENTLY DEVELOPED AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Stormwater Complaint Hotline

- A hotline has been established (**540-542-1346**) for citizens to report problems with stormwater issues (such as flooding and erosion or water pollution), maintenance issues (such as clogged inlets or problems at stormwater ponds), and/or erosion and sediment control (such as failing silt fences at construction sites).
- Citizens should call **540-662-4131** to report illegal dumping of illicit or hazardous materials into the storm drains or water bodies.

Adopt-A-Stream Program

- An Adopt-A-Stream Program has been established by which organizations can volunteer to “adopt” a segment of stream. These organizations will be awarded a sign advertising their efforts and all volunteers will receive a T-shirt with the City’s Adopt-A-Stream logo.
- A stream cleanup event was held on September 22, 2007 by the Opequon Watershed Group and was co-sponsored by the City of Winchester, Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Virginia’s Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Litter and debris removed from the stream and stream banks included a bicycle, grocery cart, shovels and other tools, pots and pans, discarded clothes and numerous beverage cans and bottles as well as other general litter (paper cups, plastic bags, etc.).
- A stream cleanup is scheduled for November 17th by the Girl Scout Troup #316.
- More cleanup events by these organizations and other organizations (such as Shenandoah University’s Environmental Studies Department) are anticipated as the City encourages participation in this important program.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

- An Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program is under development to help identify and eliminate any illicit connections to the storm sewer system. Major subwatersheds (or drainage areas) in the City are being prioritized for stream walks based on their potential for illicit connections (age of development, number of industries and businesses with high illicit connection potential).
- Marking of storm drains to indicate that dumping should not occur since the area drains to a nearby creek or stream is ongoing.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- A **public education plan** will be developed outlining recommended methods for educating the citizens of the City of Winchester on stormwater pollution prevention.
- Meetings will be held with citizen groups to encourage a partnership with the City on stormwater education and stormwater pollution prevention.
- Several improvements to the **City’s Stormwater website** are planned, including information on the Adopt-A-Stream Program, Stormwater Hotline, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program and other program improvements. Go to <http://www.winchesterva.gov/engineering/stormwater.php> to keep posted on new events.
- Articles will be presented in the **Winchester Star** notifying citizens of stormwater program activities as described in this document.
- The City’s programs for **construction site runoff** control and **post-construction stormwater management** will be reviewed to develop recommended improvements.



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